



## THE CHOICE TO STAY: THE STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF LIFE IN SITIO RONGGOT, CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA, PHILIPPINES

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**ABSTRACT** – *Sitio Ronggot* is prone to floods and typhoon attributed to its geographical location. Thus, it is necessary to implement relocation projects to areas identified as high risk. The study embarked on exploring the reasons behind the apparent attachment of families who stayed in the *Sitio Ronggot* even with the provision of fully furnished houses in a safer relocation site and the different perceptions it created among students who belong to the families who stayed. An interview was conducted among selected students who still reside in the area. Themes were derived from their narratives. Results highlighted the participants own description and images of the *Sitio*. Subthemes also emerged: difficult place, epitome of provincial life, a place or rich social connection, place that encourages a serious outlook in life, a place of personal historical significance, place of happiness, and people and place relationships. It was concluded that the decision was rooted in the connection of the community to the land and its relevance to their economic and social lives. It is recommended that any interventions to be implemented in the area should include a consideration of the relationship of the people to their land.

*Keywords: climate change and social dynamics, communities and lakes, lived experiences, sense of place, shared meanings, perception of youth*



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